Encyclopaedia Aristasiana

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Sai Herthe's Day

The 7th of Herthe (1st of January) is Sai Herthe's Day, the Festival of Hearth and Home. Sai Herthe is the Janya of hearth and home.

Two particular traditions are associated with Sai Herthe's Day:

1: At midnight members of a household and any guests process through the house banging drums, blowing horns, in some cases even banging pots and pans: making as much noise as possible to drive out evil spirits.

2: In traditional households the hearth fire is regarded as an Eternal Flame and is never extinguished. If the fire is put out, the flame is first "taken" on a large candle or elsewhere and re-lit from this same flame. On Sai Herthe's Day the flame is extinguished and ritually re-kindled, sometimes by a priestess or fire-votary. In some Filianic traditions, this is done at Easter with the extinction taking place on the 28th of Moura and the re-kindling on Easter Day (the First of Culverine).

Although the true Aristasian New Year is the First of Culverine, there is a sense in which Sai Herthe's Day represents the death and rebirth of the light at midwinter. This quasi "new year" also corresponds to the changing of the day at midnight (the time of the demon-driving ceremony). Normally an Aristasian day starts at dawn, corresponding to the Spring-Equinox New Year.

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